

## Message Text

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SUBJ: REACTIONS TO CLC ANNOUNCEMENT OF OCTOBER 14

"NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST"

REF: OTTAWA 3264

1. ALTHOUGH CANADIAN MEDIA COVERED CLC AUGUST 12 ANNOUNCEMENT OF OCTOBER 14 AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST" AGAINST GOC WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS PROGRAM AND CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS GAVE STROY FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT, THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE IN WAY OF IMMEDIATE REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT. WHEN IT WAS APPARENT LAST WEEK THAT CLC WOULD SETTLE ON OCTOBER 13 OR 14 AS PROTEST DAY, SOME NEWSPAPER (E.G. GLOBE AND MAIL AND OTTAWA CITIZEN) HAD EDITORIALS CRITICAL OF CLC INTENTIONS, AND SOME COLUMNISTS SPECULATED THAT CLC "HAD PAINTED ITSELF INTO CORNER."

2. PRESS REPORTED ON AUGUST 13 THAT CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION "CONDEMNED" CLC ACTION AND CLAIMED "DAY OF PROTEST" WOULD CONSTITUTE ILLEGAL STRIKE. PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION MADE PUBLIC HIS LETTER TO CLC PRESIDENT JOE MORRIS ASKING MORRIS TO RETRACT HIS INVITATION TO STUDENTS TO JOIN

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PROTEST. (MORRIS TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 12

THAT CLC WAS ENCOURAGING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, NOT PUBLIC AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, TO SUPPORT CLC WORK STOPPAGE).

3. DURING SAME PRESS CONFERENCE, MORRIS RENEWED HIS PUBLIC DISPUTE WITH LABOR MINISTER MUNRO OVER "BENEFITS" OF GOC ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM FOR CANADIAN WORKERS. (MUNRO HAS BEEN CLAIMING THAT SINCE ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM WAS INITIATED, COST OF LIVING HAS INCREASED LESS THAN WAGE SETTLEMENTS WHILE MORRIS CONTENTS THAT CANADIAN WORKERS HAD NO REAL WAGE INCREASES BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974 AND ARE STILL TRYING CATCH UP WITH PAST INFLATION RATES). MORRIS REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS THAT CONTROLS HAVE NOT WORKED TO CONTROL INFLATION "NO MATTER WHAT THEY (THE GOVERNMENT) TELL YOU," AND DECLINE IN CPI RATE OF INCREASES, ACCORDING TO MORRIS, WAS DUE ALMOST ENTIRELY TO DROP IN FOOD PRICES, WHICH ARE NOT CONTROLLED.

4. THUS FAR, WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS OR COLUMNISTS, WHO HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF GOC ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM, APPLAUDING CLC-SPONSORED DAY OF PROTEST. IN COLUMN APPEARING IN NEWSPAPERS OF AUGUST 13, DOUGLAS FISHER TRACED HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH AND SUPPORT FOR THE CANADIAN LABOR MOVEMENT TO ESTABLISH HIS CREDENTIALS AS A FRIEND OF LABOR, AND HE THEN ASKED RHETORICALLY "OTHER THAN TO DEMONSTRATE MILITANCY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS DAY OF GENERAL STRIKE TO ACHIEVE?"

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND ANSWER FOR FISHER. ONE THEORY THAT HAS SURFACED, HOWEVER, IS THAT CLC'S TARGET IS REALLY PROVINCIAL NOT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS THEORY RUNS AS FOLLOWS: PROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON CONTROL PROGRAM EXPIRE IN SUMMER OF 1977. IF CLC CAN DEMONSTRATE TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS BY LARGE-SCALE PROTEST THAT ELECTORATE IS AGAINST CONTROLS, PROVINCES WILL NOT RENEW AGREEMENTS NEXT SUMMER AND CONTROLS PROGRAM WILL FALL APART. THUS, ALTHOUGH FEDERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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GOVERNMENT MAY NOT REACT TO DAY OF PROTEST, PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES MAY AND THIS WILL CAUSE DEMISE OF PROGRAM BEFORE DECEMBER 1978.

6. ABOVE THEORY HAS NUMBER OF QUESTIONABLE FACTORS, INCLUDING ASSUMPTION THAT PROGRAM WOULD COLLAPSE IF PROVINCES PULLED OUT. ANOTHER IS CLC APPARENT BELIEF THAT IT CAN MOUNT PROTEST SUFFICIENTLY LARGE AND

SUCCESSFUL SO AS TO IMPRESS PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.  
RECENT GALLUP POLL AND OTHERS SUGGEST THAT CANADIAN  
PUBLIC IS STILL HOPEFUL ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM WILL  
WORK AND CLC MAY NOT BE ABLE CONVINCE LARGE NUMBERS  
OF POPULACE TO JOIN IN PROTEST DEMONSTRATION. MOST  
CYNICAL COMMENTARY WE'VE HEARD WAS FROM RADIO  
ANALYST WHO IN REPORTING MORRIS' INVITATION TO  
STUDENTS, NON-UNIONISTS AND PENSIONERS TO JOIN PROTEST,  
ASKED "WHAT ARE PENSIONERS SUPPOED TO STOP DOING;  
NOT EAT?"  
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